

## Against the Grain

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# Book Reviews: Monographic Musings

Debbie Vaughn

College of Charleston, [vaughnd@cofc.edu](mailto:vaughnd@cofc.edu)

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**Column Editor's Note:** *I imagine I am not the only ATG reader who struggles with personal digital content: documents relating to institutional memory, emails that provide a chronology of how and why departmental decisions were made, digital photos, and even scanned family recipes. Thankfully, Marjorie M.K. Hlava offers us her thoughts on Information Today's relatively-new title, Personal*

*Archiving: Preserving Our Digital Heritage, edited by Donald T. Hawkins. Marjorie's history and experience with creating, organizing, and disseminating information is remarkable, and her work with the Controlled Vocabulary and Dublin Core teams has profoundly influenced our profession. Many thanks to Marjorie for her contribution to this month's ATG. Happy reading, everyone! — DV*

**Hawkins, Donald T., ed. *Personal Archiving: Preserving Our Digital Heritage*.** Medford, NJ: Information Today, Inc., 2013. 978-1-57387-480-9. 320 pages. \$49.50.

Reviewed by **Marjorie M.K. Hlava** (President and Chairman, Access Innovations / Data Harmony) <mhlava@accessinn.com>

Having been deeply involved in digital information management since 1971, **Donald Hawkins** is well suited to be the editor of this book. He has assembled a well-chosen assortment of experts to provide their insight on various aspects of personal digital archiving.

In the Introduction, **Hawkins** identifies some technological developments that have led to the relatively new interest in personal archiving, including the widespread use of digital cameras; the extensive use of email; and the recent emergence of cloud storage services. "In response to these trends, commercial software packages for the preservation of family and individual histories have begun to appear, and the general public's awareness of and interest in personal archiving is rapidly increasing."

In Chapter 1 – "Personal Digital Archives: What They Are, What They Could Be, and Why They Matter" – **Jeff Ubois** of the **MacArthur Foundation** discusses the importance of personal digital archives from a social and cultural perspective. He observes, "Clearly, the concept of the personal digital archive is on the minds of many, from authors and artists to historians and genealogists, and from entrepreneurs and engineers to funders and managers of memory institutions. Over the last few years, a common language, shared awareness, and a new field of study centered on personal archives have begun to take shape through the work of a new community of digital archivists. But it has yet to be fully defined or realized." He discusses five issues: 1) funding and costs; 2) the relation between the commercial and noncommercial sectors; 3) the relation between individuals and institutions, 4) technology and design; and 5) culture and expectations.

In Chapter 2 – "Personal Archiving for Individuals and Families" – **Danielle Conklin**, of **Cotton Gloves Research** discusses the challenges of personal archiving. These challenges include dealing with the large amounts of unorganized files that many people have, and the problems that changing technologies and formats present for long-term storage and access. Several case studies show "how people are archiving," each with a different set of approaches.

In Chapter 3 – "The Library of Congress and Personal Digital Archiving" – **Mike Ashenfelter** of the **Library of Congress** reveals what the **LOC** tells people about preserving personal digital material. The chapter includes a section on digital photos, with technical nitty-gritty as well as basic principles. He explains the **LOC's** interest in disseminating personal archiving know-how:

"We are firm in our conviction that people should have a basic knowledge of how to take care of their digital stuff."

In Chapter 4 – "Software and Services for Personal Archiving" – **Hawkins** describes available software and services for the following activities: archiving photos and documents; collecting notes; email archiving; email backup with manual archiving; and archiving home movies and videos.

What happens to a person's digital materials after that person dies? In Chapter 5 – "Digital Inheritance: Tackling the Legal and Practical Issues" – **Evan Carroll** of the **Digital Beyond** discusses the legal complexities of access to a digital legacy, along with rights, ownership, and estate planning. Practical issues such as awareness of digital materials are also covered, along with solid advice on how to deal with the complexities.

In Chapter 6 – "Social Media, Personal Data, and Reusing Our Digital Legacy" – **Catherine C. Marshall** of **Microsoft Research**, Silicon Valley, continues the theme of complexity regarding digital belongings in cyberspace. The author asks, "Should we think of our stuff in the cloud and on social media as an extension of our local stuff, and does this mean we should have a plan for keeping it safe, too? ... Is that online stuff still under our control? What do we own and what can we use? Does it have value to other people?" The author describes what surprised her about each of three studies that she conducted on how "the locus of personal information and people's associated management practices have shifted dramatically over the past decade."

Chapter 7 – "Reading Ben Shneiderman's Email: Identifying Narrative Elements in Email Archives" – is by **Jason Zalinger**, **University of South Florida**; **Nathan G. Freier**, **Microsoft Corporation**; and **Ben Shneiderman**, **University of Maryland**. This chapter opens with the intriguing question, "When you don't know what you are looking for, how do you find it?" The authors describe their testing of a narrative approach to searching the large email archive of a professor (at his invitation), with the aim of developing an interesting account of that person's life and career. This chapter describes the sometimes surprising and creative "narrative search" techniques (such as searching on "ninja") that they used. "The goal is not to find complete narratives (although many do exist) but to search for critical narrative clues, like the right jigsaw puzzle piece, that will lead users to find rich, rewarding information about someone else's life in email."

In Chapter 8 – "Faculty Members as Archivists: Personal Archiving Practices in the Academic Environment" – **Ellysa Stern Cahoy**, **The Pennsylvania State University Libraries**, examines personal archiving issues specific to academicians. She also discusses "principles for helping scholars effectively manage, maximize, curate, and archive their scholarly materials throughout their academic career." The emphasis is on author-managed preservation of scholarly digital materials.

In Chapter 9 – "Landscape of Personal Digital Archiving Activities and Research" – **Sarah Kim**, **University of Texas at Austin**, examines the emerging field of personal digital archiving by drawing connections among research activities recently or still being conducted in that field. She notes major trends in the research, and observes that "researchers from diverse backgrounds are uncovering interesting empirical data and engaging in new conceptual discussions as well as offering visionary suggestions related to personal digital archiving."

In Chapter 10 – "Active Personal Archiving and the Internet Archive" – **Aaron Ximm** of the **Internet Archive** describes the activities and roles of the **Internet Archive**, a repository of digital cultural materials. The organization's work with personal archives is discussed. The focus of the discussion is active personal archiving, which the author describes as "the automated collection by an archive of its own contents on behalf of a specific individual human or institution by simple software agents."

In Chapter 11 – "Our Technology Heritage" – **Richard Banks**, **Microsoft Research**, Cambridge, U.K., uses examples from the various generations of his own family to examine "the gradual shift of our lives from physical to digital and the increasing role of technology as part of legacy." The most interesting parts of this chapter are those that delve, in colorful detail, into the interplay between physical object and digital legacy.

In Chapter 12 – "New Horizons in Personal Archiving: 1 Second Everyday, myKive, and MUSE" – **Hawkins**, along with **Christopher J. Prom**, **University of Illinois**, and **Peter Chan**, **Stanford University**, describe three modern

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purchased through our regional consortium with discounted costs.

Since 2008, **Colorado State University Libraries** have seen less budget dollars and less staff. To make the library more sustainable and relevant to our patrons, we have moved to a patron-driven acquisitions model for our monographic titles in print and electronic format. We have drastically reduced the number of monographs purchased since 2008. Also, there has been a reduction in the number of staff. We have instituted wherever possible a “cradle to grave” process and cataloging-at-receipt. With less budget dollars, less staff, and efficient workflow, we are doing less with less. 🌳

### The Peripatetic Browser from page 37

**Frederick Karl** from the small discount rack. However, after some of the reviews I have seen on Amazon, I am having second thoughts about actually reading this colossal tome.

I dropped in very quickly to **The Iron Rail Book Collective** (no Website) which is, as one might expect, a small store largely focused on counter-cultural subjects. The French Quarter tour largely complete, I visited some stores in the rest of the city. **Maple Street Used and Rare Books**, <http://www.maplestreetbookshop.com/>, is two buildings, one of new and one of used books. Unfortunately, the used section was closed on this day. Next was **Blue Cypress Books**, <http://bluecypressbooks.blogspot.com/>, with a fairly standard selection of more modern used books. Finally, there was **McKeown's Books** (no Website). I did not make any purchases, and by now it was time to start home.

Overall New Orleans is a great city for book lovers. I highly recommend to anyone visiting that you request the book store map at the first store you visit. If you plan to do all the French Quarter stores in a day put on your walking shoes and have a rally point to drop books in case you get too ambitious in your purchases. Also stay focused. Depending on the time, there will be plenty of distractions in the way of Cajun food and cold beer that could prevent you from achieving your goal. If you have more than one day, well...Enjoy! 🌳

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archiving projects. This chapter effectively illustrates the advances being made in the field of personal digital archiving.

In the final chapter – “The Future of Personal Digital Archiving: Defining the Research Agendas” – **Clifford Lynch** of the **Coalition for Networked Information** brings the perspective of three decades of “trying to understand the ways in which information technology and ubiquitous computer communications networks are reshaping the scholarly and cultural record of our civilization.” He explores a dizzying assortment of possibilities for the future of personal digital archiving. 🌳

## Don's Conference Notes

by **Donald T. Hawkins** <dt Hawkins@verizon.net>

### Open Access To Published Research: Current Status and Future Directions: An NFAIS Workshop

Although many naysayers of open access (OA) exist, it is still important, and new directions are emerging. A workshop held by **NFAIS**, the **National Federation of Advanced Information Services**, in Philadelphia on November 22, 2013 entitled “Open Access to Published Research: Current Status and Future Directions” was very timely and appropriate. It drew an audience of 25 onsite and over 40 remote attendees.

#### Today's OA Landscape



*Richard Huffine — Photo courtesy of Donald T. Hawkins.*

**Richard Huffine**, Sr. Director, Federal Government Market, **ProQuest**, opened the workshop with a review of today's OA landscape. He began his presentation with a definition of OA from **Peter Suber**, co-founder of the Open Access Directory<sup>1</sup>: “literature that is digital, online, and free-of-charge and most copyright and licensing restrictions.” This tag cloud shows some of the terms most frequently encountered in OA discussions.



**Huffine** reviewed the three generally accepted types of OA:

**Gold:** The cost barrier has been removed by journals with permission of the copyright holder. Gold OA includes journals dedicated to being open, articles in subscription journals, and supplemental data posted to an author-controlled site. Many gold publications are supported by Author Page Charges (APCs).

**Green:** The content is hosted on an institutional repository or is made available through “self-archiving” by the author or copyright holder. Publishers’ agreements govern what the author may do and what can be deposited in a repository.

**Clear (Libre):** Public domain content where the cost and usage restrictions have been removed. The main rights management

model is a **Creative Commons (CC)** license. Because data cannot be copyrighted, but a collection of it can, there will continue to be grey areas around derivative works derived from data, and many policies are not clear.

Mandates — policies requiring researchers to make their results freely available — are a recent OA trend. The U.S. Government has tried to legislate OA with little success; many of its proposals have been viewed as efforts to protect publishers’ investments. A recent memo from the **Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)** directs agencies to develop plans supporting increased public access to research funded by the Federal government and requiring access to both the data and the publications.<sup>2</sup> Agencies were required to submit draft plans by August 2013 and begin collecting public input shortly thereafter, but the recent government shutdown severely delayed implementation of this mandate.

**Huffine** concluded that the ultimate outcome of today's OA issues may result in a variety of strategies depending on the research discipline and the willingness of researchers, institutional repositories, funders, and publishers to work together.

#### The Researcher's Perspective on OA

According to **Jean-Claude Bradley**, Associate Professor of Chemistry, **Drexel University**, openness in science is very field-specific because the amount of data to be shared varies significantly. The current research environment has created a selective bias towards which experiments are attempted because ambiguous or negative results are rarely reported in the literature. **Bradley** has created a “Chemical Rediscovery Survey”<sup>3</sup> by doing a wide variety of experiments and making the data openly available for analysis. He has also assembled a database of data on over 20,000 chemical compounds, much of it donated by chemical companies.<sup>4</sup> By making data openly available, many challenging chemistry questions can be answered more efficiently. **Bradley** was the first of several speakers who suggested that raw data should be made available before publication of a journal article, not afterwards as is now the case.

#### Government Responses to Researchers' Needs

The **National Science Foundation (NSF)** funds basic research in a wide range of disciplines with a mission to protect our ability to educate the next generation of scientists. Researchers funded by **NSF** publish their results in a wide variety of journals and are encouraged to make their data available through OA. The **OSTP** memo is aligned with the goals of **NSF**, but trust is important to sustain agency policies. **NSF** has a history of data sharing and fosters Gold OA by permitting researchers to include the APCs in their grant applications.

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